1 GARY A. FEESS United States Attorney 2 ROBERT L. BROSIO Assistant United States Attorney 3 Chief, Criminal Division, MANUEL A. MEDRANO 4 Assistant United States Attorney Major Narcotics Section 1400 United States Cour Hanses DISTRICT 312 North Spring Street 2 90012 5 6 Los Angeles, California 90012 Telephone: (213) 894-0619 7 Attorneys for Plaintiff 8 United States of America 9

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

NO. 87-422(C)-ER

Plaintiff,

RETURN TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS; MEMORANDUM OF

POINTS AND AUTHORITIES;

DECLARATIONS OF MANUEL A. MEDRANO AND RICHARD M.

RAFAEL CARO-QUINTERO, et al.,

CASILLAS

Defendants.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

record, Assistant United States Attorney Manuel A. Medrano, hereby files its return to petitioner's application for writ of habeas

Plaintiff, United States of America, through its counsel of

This return is based on the attached Memorandum of Points corpus.

and Authorities, the attached Declarations of Manuel A. Medrano

and Richard M. Casillas, the files and records in this case, and

such other matter as the court may properly consider at the time

of the hearing on this motion.

September 17, 1989. DATED:

Respectfully submitted,

GARY A. FEESS United States Attorney

Case 2:87-cr-00422-JAK | Document 3808 | Filed 09/13/89 | Page 2 of 48 | Page ID #:46072 ROBERT L. BROSIO Assistant United States Attorney Chief, Criminal Division MANUEL A. MEDRANO Assistant United States Attorney Major Narcotics Section Attorneys for Plaintiff United States of America

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

Ι

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

On August 9, 1989, the Immigration and Naturalization Service ("INS") office in San Antonio, Texas, detained Ruben Zuno-Arce ("Zuno") pending a hearing to determine if he was an excludable alien pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(23). On August 10, 1989, this court issued a material witness arrest warrant for Zuno, which was served on Zuno on August 11 while he was in INS custody in San Antonio. On August 11 Zuno was brought before a United States Magistrate in San Antonio, who ordered Zuno held without bail pending a hearing to be held in Los Angeles on August 14, 1989. Thereafter Zuno was immediately transferred from San Antonio to Los Angeles. (Casillas Declaration at ¶ 2). On August 14, 1989, Zuno made his first appearance in Los Angeles, and the matter was continued to August 18, 1989. On August 18 the court ordered Zuno detained while the government obtained use immunity to place Zuno before a federal grand jury.

On August 24, after receiving use immunity, Zuno testified before a grand jury for approximately three hours. (Medrano Declaration at ¶3). The government did not complete its examination of Zuno. On August 28 the court ordered the continued detention of Zuno without bail, and further ordered the government to conclude its grand jury examination of Zuno prior to September

- 3 -

5, the date scheduled for the next status conference in this matter. On August 31 Zuno concluded his testimony before the grand jury. (Id.).

On September 5, 1989, at 1:30 p.m., the court found that Zuno was not a material witness in the matter of <u>United States v. Juan Jose Bernabe-Ramirez</u>, CR 87-422(C)-ER, currently scheduled for trial on October 3, 1989. The court further ordered Zuno's release from the material witness arrest warrant. (<u>Id</u>.).

On this same date at approximately 4:30 p.m., the court held a second status conference after allegations by counsel for Zuno that the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, after the court's decision to release Zuno from the material witness arrest warrant, had contacted the INS office in San Antonio and directed them to continue to detain Zuno on immigration grounds. After a hearing, the court found that the allegations were meritless, and that the court lacked jurisdiction over what was now an INS immigration matter. (Id.). INS officials thereafter took custody of Zuno, and he was transported and arrived in San Antonio late Wednesday, September 6, 1989. (Casillas Declaration at ¶3).

The instant petition for writ of habeas corpus is simply an attempt by counsel for Zuno to resurrect an issue that has already been disposed of by the court. Relying solely on speculation and conjucture, counsel for Zuno continues to assert allegations of government misconduct which, as described below, are meritless.

II

ARGUMENT

A. COUNSEL'S ALLEGATIONS OF GOVERNMENT MISCONDUCT ARE MERITLESS

Counsel for Zuno Cannot Rely on an Undisclosed
 "Confidential Informant" As the Basis for Allegations of
 Government Misconduct

In an extraordinary move, counsel for Zuno uses as the foundation for allegations of government impropriety information that a "Confidential Informant in San Antonio, believed reliable, had stated that Mr. Ruben Zuno-Arce was being held in San Antonio at the request of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles," and that the United States Attorney's Office had sought Zuno's continued INS detention in order to have time to seek a perjury indictment against Zuno before he left the country. (Declaration of Edward M. Medvene p. 1, filed in support of writ of habeas corpus). There is no case law or statutory support for proceeding in a petition for writ of habeas corpus by way of undisclosed confidential informant information. On the contrary, Central District of California Local Rule 7.5.2 mandates that the factual basis for motions must be set forth in affidavits.

- 5 -

1 2

Zuno was Indicted Simply Because He Perjured Himself Before a Federal Grand Jury; Thus His Allegations of Government Misconduct Are Meritless

On Tuesday, September 5, 1989, at approximately 1:30 p.m., the court ordered Zuno released from the material witness arrest warrant. (Medrano Declaration at ¶3).

At approximately 4:30 p.m., the court held a status conference to consider allegations by counsel for Zuno that the government, in an effort to circumvent the court's release order, had directed the San Antonio INS office to detain Zuno. Counsel for the government vehemently denied this allegation, and advised the court that Zuno's continued detention was due to a San Antonio INS detention order that had issued on August 9, and which pre-dated the August 10 material witness arrest warrant. Government counsel also advised the court that INS Deputy District Director Gary Renick in San Antonio had advised government counsel that District Director Richard M. Casillas wanted Zuno returned to San Antonio to face an exclusion hearing. (Id.).

The court also heard testimony from Los Angeles INS Deputy
District Director Don Looney, who advised that the San Antonio INS
detention of Zuno had pre-dated the material witness arrest
warrant issued from Los Angeles on August 10. Deputy District
Director Looney also advised the court that INS proceedings were
still pending in San Antonio, and that the San Antonio INS office
wanted Zuno immediately returned to San Antonio for resolution of
those proceedings. (Id.).

The court thereafter found that there was no basis for Zuno's allegations of misconduct. The court also found that Zuno's continued detention was due to a preexisting INS hold. The court concluded that since it lacked jurisdiction to resolve any INS immigration issues regarding Zuno, and since INS had the appropriate statutory machinery for dealing with this issue, the court would not interfere with the INS proceedings. (Id.).

The only misconduct that has occurred in this case is that of counsel for Zuno, who continues to make baseless allegations, and disingenuously distorts and misrepresents the record. For example, in an astounding admission, counsel for Zuno admitted knowing of the existence of the San Antonio INS hold.

THE COURT:

All right. Counsel, when you came in this afternoon, you didn't say so directly, but you implied there was some dirty dealing afoot affecting your client and that the purpose of holding this hearing was for me to determine that this hold on this witness was not solicited by the government in order to defeat my prior order of release.

It does not sound like it was. I do not believe that counsel here had anything at all to do with it.

<u>_</u>

Were you aware that there was such a hold?

MR. MEDVENE:

Let me just thank you for holding the hearing now and let me tell you what I was aware of, your Honor.

We were aware, because we had read in some press that there was a hold.

Transcript of Proceedings on September 5, 1989, at p. 18 (Emphasis added). $\frac{1}{}$

Other misrepresentations characterize the petition for writ of habeas corpus. Counsel for Zuno falsely states that the government entered into an agreement on the record that no action would be taken to interfere with Zuno's release from custody. In fact, the agreement which counsel for the government and Zuno entered into was that since Zuno was still under a subpoena to testify at the October 3, 1989, trial of Juan Jose Bernabe-Ramirez, the government could arrange for Zuno's presence in Los Angeles simply by telephonically contacting Zuno's counsel, Ed Medvene. The government also agreed to place no other material witness holds on Zuno, and to expedite Zuno's transfer from Los Angeles to San Antonio for resolution of the INS proceeding. (Id. at ¶4).

^{1/} A copy of the transcript is attached as Exhibit "A".

At no time was there an agreement on the record that Zuno would not be indicted for criminal activity. $\frac{2}{}$

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

The government has expressly refuted Zuno's allegations that the government has engaged in misconduct in its dealings with Zuno's initial detention on August 9, 1989 (prior to the August 10 material witness arrest warrant issued by the court), was decided by the San Antonio INS office. (Casillas Declaration at ¶ 2, 5; Medrano Declaration at ¶5). After the court's September 5 order releasing Zuno from the material witness arrest warrant, San Antonio INS District Director Richard M. Casillas ordered that Zuno be immediately returned to San Antonio to hold a hearing on whether he should be admitted or excluded from the United States on the grounds of alleged narcotics trafficking. (Casillas Declaration at ¶3). While Zuno's INS immigration hearing was pending, the San Antonio INS office received notice on September 7 that Zuno had been indicted for perjury in Los Thereafter, at approximately 5:30 p.m., on September 7, Angeles. the United States Marshal's Service took custody of Zuno. (Id. at ¶4).

Contrary to Zuno's claims, at no time has the San Antonio INS office taken any steps to delay or protract the INS proceedings

^{2/} On the contrary, after the grant of use immunity, counsel for the government and Zuno advised Zuno that he could be indicted for perjury if he failed to tell the truth while testifying before a federal grand jury.

regarding Zuno. 3/ All decisions regarding the immigration status of Zuno in San Antonio have been made unlaterally by District Director Casillas. (Id; Medrano Declaration at ¶5). At no time has the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles requested or directed the San Antonio INS office to take any action, or fail to take any action, regarding Zuno's INS detention in San Antonio. (Casillas Declaration at ¶ 5; Medrano Declaration at ¶ 5).

Through his petition for writ of habeas corpus Zuno endeavors to resurrect an issue that has already been addressed by the court. The only new "fact" Zuno can now point to is his indictment for three counts of perjury before a federal grand jury — a fact of which Zuno cannot now complain in light of admonitions to him prior to his testimony before the grand jury. Zuno was repeatedly advised by counsel for the government, and his own counsel, that in return for immunity from prosecution, Zuno's only obligation was to tell the truth when testifying, and that his failure to do so could subject him to charges of perjury. Zuno failed to tell the truth under oath, and he now faces perjury charges for his knowing and concious decision to lie.

If Zuno seeks to challenge the validity of the indictment, then the proper forum for that issue is a pretrial motion under

^{3/} Zuno and his counsel have received extraordinarily favorable treatment since August 9 when Zuno was initially arrested. For example, Zuno has been transported on an expedited overnight basis between San Antonio and Los Angeles on three ocassions, a process that typically takes one to two weeks. (Casillas Declaration at ¶5).

Counsel for Zuno readily admits that jurisdiction over Zuno's habeas Corpus petition normally should be in San Antonio where the original (and pending) INS hold issued. Yet Zuno argues that since the government allegedly delayed Zuno's release from INS custody, the court should use its discretion to exercise jurisdiction over the instant petition. However, as shown in subsection 2, supra, the government has not engaged in gamesmanship. Thus any attack on the INS hold of Zuno should be directed to a federal court in San Antonio.

Finally, the cases cited by Zuno for the proposition that a writ of habeas corpus can issue to release an alien from INS detention are inapposite. None of the cases cited by Zuno involve a situation where, as in the instant matter, the pending INS hold was superseded by federal criminal charges, thus rendering the INS detention moot.

III

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the government respectfully submits that Zuno's petition for writ of habeas corpus should be denied.

^{4/} The perjury indictment against Zuno has been assigned to the Honorable Robert M. Takasugi. A trial date of November 7, 1989, has been set.

DECLARATION OF MANUEL A. MEDRANO

- I, Manuel A. Medrano, hereby declare as follows:
- 1. I am an Assistant United States Attorney assigned to the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California. I am government counsel in the matter of <u>United States v. Bernabe-Ramirez</u>, CR 87-422(C)-ER, currently scheduled for trial on October 3, 1989.
- 2. On August 9, 1989, the Immigration and Naturalization Service ("INS") in San Antonio, Texas, took Ruben Zuno-Arce into custody as an excludable alien on the ground of narcotics trafficking. On August 10, 1989, the Honorable Edward Rafeedie issued a material witness arrest warrant for Zuno. On August 14, 1989, Zuno made his first appearance in Los Angeles.
- 3. On August 24 and 31, 1989, after receiving use immunity, Zuno testified before a federal grand jury in Los Angeles. On September 5, 1989, at approximately 1:30 p.m., the court found that Zuno was not a material witness regarding the pending criminal case against Juan Jose Bernabe-Ramirez, and ordered that Zuno be released from the material arrest warrant. On this same date, at approximately 4:30 p.m., the court held a status conference regarding the immigration status of Zuno. Counsel for Zuno alleged that the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, after the court's earlier order to release Zuno as a material witness, had telephoned the San Antonio INS office and directed INS officials to continue to detain Zuno. Counsel for the government, and Los Angeles INS Deputy District Director Don Looney, advised the court that the San Antonio INS detention of

Zuno had <u>pre-dated</u> the material arrest warrant that had issued out of Los Angeles on August 10. Deputy District Director Looney further advised the court that INS proceedings were still pending in San Antonio, and the San Antonio INS office requested that Zuno be immediately transported back to San Antonio for disposition of those proceedings. The court then found that because of the preexisting INS hold on Zuno, it lacked jurisdiction to resolve any INS immigration issues regarding Zuno.

- 4. Ed Medvene, counsel for Zuno, and I agreed on the record on September 5 that Zuno had been served with a subpoena to testify at the trial of Bernabe-Ramirez, and the government could secure Zuno's presence at trial by telephoning Medvene to arrange for Zuno's return to the United States. The government also agreed to place no other material witness holds on Zuno, and to expedite Zuno's transfer from Los Angeles to San Antonio so he could address the INS hold. (The latter in fact occurred -- Zuno's last Los Angeles appearance was at approximately 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 5; San Antonio INS officials have advised me that he arrived the following day, September 6, in San Antonio.)
- 5. The decision to detain Zuno on August 9, 1989, in San Antonio was made unilaterally by San Antonio INS officials. At no time have I, or any representative of my office, requested or

Case 2:87-cr-00422-JAK Document 3808 Filed 09/13/89 Page 14 of 48 Page ID #:46084 directed the San Antonio INS office to take any action, or fail to take any action, regarding Zuno. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 13 day of September, 1989, at Los Angeles, California. - 14 -



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration an Naturalization Service

727 E. Durango Suite A 301
San Antonio, Texas 78206

DECLARATION OF RICHARD M. CASILLAS

The State of Texas)	Before me the undersigned
County of Bexar) .	Richard M. Casillas and having authority on this day personally
	-		appeared and having been duly sworn deposes and says:

- I, Richard M. Casillas, hereby declare as follows:
- 1. I am the District Director with the Immigration and Naturalization

 Service ("INS") for the INS office in San Antonio, Texas. In that capacity I supervise INS matters and have jurisdiction over a seventy-eight county area.
- 2. On August 9, 1989, the San Antonio INS office detained Ruben Zuno-Arce ("Zuno") because he was deemed an excludable alien pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(23). On August 10, 1989, a federal district judge in Los Angeles issued a material witness arrest warrant for Zuno. This warrant was served on Zuno on August 11 while he was in INS custody in San Antonio, With its issuance, the material witness arrest warrant took precedence over the San Antonio INS hold. On August 11 Zuno was brought before a United States Magistrate in San Antonio, who ordered Zuno held without bond pending a hearing in Los Angeles on August 14. Zuno was immediately transferred from San Antonio to Los Angeles.

- 3. On Tuesday, September 5, 1989, a federal district judge in Los Angeles ordered Zuno released from the material witness arrest warrant. However, since there was a still pending INS hold on Zuno, I directed that Zuno be immediately returned to San Antonio to hold a hearing on whether Zuno should be admitted or be excluded from the United States on the grounds of alleged narcotics trafficking. Zuno arrived in San Antonio late Wednesday, September 6.
- 4. INS exclusion hearing charging documents (INS form 1-110 and 1-122) were not filed Thursday morning, September 7, because counsel for Zuno in San Antonio requested until 2:30 p.m. that day in order to meet with Zuno. Since Zuno's attorney did not appear at 2:30 p.m. on 9-07-89, charging documents were filed with the Immigration Court at 3 p.m. Even if the charging documents were filed at 8:00 a.m. on September 7; under normal court procedures, the earliest possible time Mr. Zuno could have been scheduled for a hearing was the afternoon of September 8. Subsequently on September 7, my office received notice that Zuno had been indicted for perjury in Los Angeles, and at approximately 5:30 p.m. on September 7, the United States Marshal Service took custody of Zuno.
- 5. At no time has my office taken any steps to delay or protract the INS proceedings regarding Zuno in San Antonio. On the contrary, Zuno has received unusually favorable treatment, as evidenced by his overnight expedited transportation between San Antonio and Los Angeles, a process that typically takes one to two weeks. All decisions regarding the immigration status of Zuno in San Antonio have been made unilaterally by me. The United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles has never requested or directed my office to take any

action, or failed to take any action, regarding Zuno's INS detention in San Antonio.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this // day of September 1989, in San Antonio, Texas.

(

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of September A.D. 1989.

Notary Public in and for Bexar

County Texas.

my commission expires 12-12-92

Case 2:87-	r-00422-JAK Document 3808 Filed 09/13/89 Page 18 of 48 Page ID #:46088
1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2	FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
3	
4	HONORABLE EDWARD RAFEEDIE, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE PRESIDING
5	
6	
7	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
8	Plaintiff,)
9	vs.) CASE NO: CR 87-422(C)-ER
10	RAFAEL CARO-QUINTERO, et al,
11	Defendant.)
12	
13	
14	
15	REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
16	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1989 1:30 P.M.
17	4:30 P.M.
18	_
19	
20	
21	
22	Julie Churchill, CSR
23	Official Reporter U.S. District Court, 442-C
24	312 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012
25	(213) 617-8227

JULIE A. CHURCHILL - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

Case 2:87-or-00422-JAK Document 3808 Filed 09/13/89 Page 19 of 48 Page ID

1	LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1989
2	1:30 P.M.
3	
4	THE CLERK: CR 87-422(c)-ER, U.S.A. versus Ruben
5	Zuno-Arce.
6	MR. GURULE: Good afternoon, your Honor. Jimmy
7	Gurule and Manuel Medrano appearing on behalf of the United
8	States.
9	MR. MEDVENE: If the Court please, Messrs.
10	Blancarte, D'Nicola and Medvene for Mr. Zuno-Arce.
11	THE COURT: Now, the Court ordered a review of this
12	matter after the completion of the witness' grand jury
13	testimony. I take it that that testimony has now been
14	completed; is that correct, Mr. Gurule?
15	MR. GURULE: Yes, your Honor.
16	THE COURT: The Court has been provided with
17	transcript of the testimony of the witness given at the Grand
18	Jury which the Court has reviewed. In addition, I have
19	reviewed the motions and documents that have been filed by both
20	sidės.
21 .	Now, Mr. Gurule speaking for the government, what
22	do you believe the Court what are you requesting that the
23	Court do at this time with respect to Mr. Zuno-Arce?
24	MR. GURULE: Your Honor, the government is
	•

respectfully requesting that he be detained, that the detention

MR. GURULE: Yes, your Honor. That, coupled with other evidence from other witnesses, FBI forensic witnesses, but it is based in large part upon evidence, testimony that he presented to the Grand Jury.

THE COURT: So you would propose to have the

24

6

8

9

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

1 here?

MR. MEDVENE: My name is Medvene, your Honor.

the Grand Jury on two occasions. He has answered every question that the government has asked him. The government has no more questions to ask him. They could have asked them all on the first occasion. They held him another week. They started him — they started him approximately at 9:00 o'clock and finished before noon. They could have had him on all afternoon.

Our understanding, your Honor, of what Mr. Arce has said in substance is he denies being involved in narcotic trafficking, he denies being an intermediary between narcotics traffickers and government officials, he denies being at the Lope de Vega residence any time after December 23rd, 1984.

He denies ever knowing or meeting Juan Jose
Bernabe-Ramierez. He denies ever knowing or leaving any other
person identified to him as either a defendant or a suspect in
the Camarena case, including Rafael Quintero, Ernesto FonsecaCarrillo, Armando Pavon-Reyes and approximately 120 other
persons depicted in photographs shown to him during the grand
jury proceedings.

He denies knowing anything about the abduction, torture and murder of DEA agent Enrique Camarena or his

assistant and pilot Mr. Alfredo Zavala Avelar.

Other than public information, including that published by the Press de la Mexico. Now that's the factual predicate.

Now, an additional fact that is of importance, your Honor, and uncontested is the defense statement that the government is prepared to continue the Ramierez trial. They have an agreement to continue the Ramierez trial. So at the earliest it will go to trial in October and at the latest it will go to trial this year or next year.

Undisputed and never answered by the government are the cases cited making reference to Rule 15, the King case and so forth, that if the government wanted this man's testimony at trial and if he didn't show up pursuant to subpoena, they could videotape his deposition, it would be admissible. The Ninth Circuit has said it stands all kinds of Constitutional muster. They have chosen not to do that.

Now, they're trying to break this man psychologically, your Honor. The man has been in jail nearly a month, treated worse than a convicted felon, sitting in a small room until a few days ago without a radio, with a toilet and a bed, not even a table.

Now, what does the government say this information is, because we've gone a long way from the assertions about narcotic trafficker and this and that. We have the sworn

11.

testimony he's not any of those things, we have the sworn testimony he wasn't in that residence within a couple months of when the dastardly act happened.

Now, what do they say? They have filed a brief and when the government case -- they have given us certain things. What we've gotten is what appears to me to be, with due deference, to be a canned brief on 6(e). I don't even get to this Grand Jury testimony because it is irrelevant, if he gets out today, which is what ought to happen.

But basically, the government has said in their papers submitted to the Ninth Circuit, that what they want this man about is for corroboration — that forensic evidence that they found, having nothing to do with Mr. Zuno-Arce, that forensic evidence they found was deposited after Caro-Quintero moved into the residence the first week of February.

Now, that's why they want it. It is not a claim that he's there; he has denied that he was there. He wasn't there. What they want to show is — and why would he come up voluntarily from Mexico if they don't want to do the the deposition procedure in that he owned 181 Lope de Vega?

There is no question. He has already said that when he voluntarily came from Mexico to San Antonio. When the DEA asked him in '87, he said that. They said they thought he testified honestly about it, that Mr. Zuno has stated that on January 11th he sold the residence to Mr. Barnabe, that he has

further stated, according to the government, between May 31, '84 and January 11, '85 that the Lope de Vega residence was unoccupied, that the former tenant moved out of the residence in May of '84.

He further said one or two weeks after the sale he drove by the residence, he observed it was being painted and remodeled. And I quote from the government brief, I quote:

"This would strongly support the government's theory that the forensic evidence was deposited after Caro-Quintero moved into the residence approximately the first week of February of '85."

I mean talking about a peanut coming out of an elephant roaring, that's why they're holding him for one month? And to have the audacity to say they want to hold him until the end of the trial, knowing they have already made a deal with the defense attorney that the trial isn't even going to go on October 3rd, it's past the point, your Honor — we say with due deference — you're sitting up there, you sat on a terrible case, a terrible tragedy.

This man had nothing to do with it. He had the misfortune of having a house, which months — the man wasn't even there for a year or so. He went there one day for the closing, months before. No evidence there. He doesn't know

1.9

in the Bernabe-Ramierez case, nor do I believe there is any basis for continuing to hold him as a witness in that case.

3 You cannot be held, as suggested in the brief filed by the

government, on the theory that there may be some other case

that might arise in the future on which he would be a material

6 witness.

I believe that the purpose of the detention has been satisfied. This witness has appeared and testified before the grand jury on two occasions. The involvement and relationship of this witness to the Lope de Vega property in no way justifies a continued detention.

Having in mind the evidence that was presented to me in the original Camarena trial regarding that property and regarding the forensic evidence, I see no need whatsoever, nor do I believe that this testimony of this witness would in any way enhance or contribute or strengthen that testimony. So insofar as the Bernabe-Ramierez case, I believe this witness has little to offer. The purpose of this detention has been fully satisfied and it would not be justified to continue further impostion on this witness, further detention for the purpose which has been stated or for the other purpose which has been suggested.

The Court does not believe that would be a lawful detention. Therefore, I now order that this witness be discharged and that he is not material and should be

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription from the stenographic record of these 23 proceedings.

24

JULIE A. CHURCHILL, CSR, RPR

25

OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

б

THE CLERK: Criminal case 84-422(c)-ER, United States of America versus Ruben Zuno-Arce.

Counsel, please state your names for the record, please.

MR. GURULE: Jimmy Gurule and Manuel Medrano appearing on behalf of the government, your Honor.

MR. MEDVENE: Messrs. Blancarte, D'Nicola, Gaut and Medvene appearing for Mr. Arce.

THE COURT: I have ordered this hearing for the following reasons. After the conclusion of the hearing we held earlier this afternoon when I ordered Mr. Zuno-Arce released, not being a material witness, no further contentions, his counsel came into the Court sometime later and stated to the Court that he had not been released because there was an immigration hold on the defendant.

Now, my one and only concern here now is this: Is this a hold that was solicited by the government in order to prolong the detention of the witness or is this a hold that has been on this witness from the inception of his arrest?

MR. GURULE: The answer to the first question: Was it solicited by the government; no. Has this hold been on this witness since early on, actually prior to this court's signing

a material witness arrest warrant; the answer to that is yes.
I would like to just lay out some factual scenario for the
court relative to how this has come to my attention, because
THE COURT: Were you aware of this when you were
here this afternoon?
MR. GURULE: I was aware that an INS hold had been
placed on Mr. Zuno when he had first come into the country in
San Antonio, Texas approximately April the 9th, but to be
honest with the Court, I had forgotten about it.
THE COURT: Was he arrested by the INS?
MR. GURULE: Yes, he was.
THE COURT: Originally?
MR. GURULE: Yes, he was.
THE COURT: For what reason; do you know?
MR. GURULE: For an excludability hearing.
THE COURT: In other words, to exclude him as an
undesirable alien?
MR. GURULE: Yes, your Honor.
THE COURT: Had he been admitted into the country
on a visa, or by what had he made legal entry?
MR. GURULE: He had made legal entry. It is my
understanding your Honor, that he was using a border crossing
card. He had been admitted lawfully in the country at that
time. And after checking the customs service computer referred
to as TASS

THE COURT: Who checked that?

MR. GURULE: INS. INS said it is a common practice when -- every time an alien is entering the United States -- to check the intelligence computer systems of INS, the Customs Service, and usually DEA, the native system. If they determine that there is a lookout -- quote, unquote, lookout for that individual because he is determined to be excludable under one of the various categories for excludability, then he may be -- they may hold an exclusion hearing or order him --

THE COURT: Your understanding is that he was held in order to determine if he was to be excluded from the country?

MR. GURULE: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Are you familiar with the laws that provide for that?

MR. GURULE: Somewhat. And what I did, your

Honor -- I learned of this, that he was not going to be

released forthwith after I came back from lunch. I received a

call from Judy Matthews. I returned her call.

I do not want this Court left with the impression that the United States Attorney's Office, after leaving this courtroom, rushed to INS and said the Judge has ordered him released, now we want you to hold him on something else, because that is clearly, clearly not what happened in this particular case.

When I returned to my office after lunch, there was a call from Miss Matthews stating that this case was going to be -- that there was an INS hold on the defendant and we were going to have a status conference tomorrow at 4:30.

I called INS to ask an INS representative from San Antonio, because that's where the INS hold has been placed originally, to be here for the hearing tomorrow because I wasn't familiar with all the details and facts surrounding the INS hold.

It was at that time that I questioned Joe Banda, an INS agent, regarding the background of why Mr. Zuno was held for excludability, and I was told then for the first time.

Under U.S.C. Section 1182, Subsection 23, that an alien may be determined to be excludable if under Subsection 23 the consulate office knows or has reason to believe that the alien is or has been involved in illicit trafficking in narcotics, and that when the INS --

THE COURT: What is the language gain?

MR. GURULE: Knows or has reason to believe that the alien has been involved in illicit trafficking in narcotics — that was my notetaking off of the telephone conversation with the INS agent.

There is reason to believe that the witness has been involved in illicit trafficking in narcotics. That was just my note taking off of the telephone conversation with the

1 INS agent.

I followed up with the INS agent if he would expound on that further and was told that Zuno-Arce, when he did come into the country lawfully, that after the INS agents checked the computer, they determined that in the United States Custom Service computer, TASS, Zuno-Arce was documented as being a narcotic trafficker.

That upon further checking in the INS computer, that there was a documented entry back in 1979 in the INS computer for narcotics trafficking for Zuno-Arce.

And that further, upon checking into the DEA intelligence computer system, referred to as NADIS -- again, Zuno-Arce is documented as being a narcotics trafficker in that computer system, as well.

So based upon that, I was told that the District Director of INS in San Antonio revoked the deferred inspection, and at that time Zuno-Arce was taken into custody on an INS and hold without bail on this INS hold. And that it was then to be set for an INS hearing on excludability to see if he could be excluded.

My understanding is that if they determine before an immigration judge that there is a sufficient basis -- this report that Zuno-Arce has been involved in narcotics trafficking -- he would be excluded, and therefore, would not be permitted to enter the country legally or obtain an INS

THE COURT: All right. Counsel, when you came in here this afternoon, you didn't say so directly, but you implied there was some dirty dealing afoot affecting your client and that the purpose of holding this hearing was for me to determine that this hold on this witness was not solicited by the government in order to defeat my prior order of release.

It does not sounds like it was. I do not believe that counsel here had anything at all to do with that.

Were you aware that there was such a hold?

MR. MEDVENE: Let me just thank you for holding the hearing now and let me tell you what I was aware of, your Honor.

We were aware, because we had read in some press, that there was a hold. We knew -- we went to the District Director, just chronologically -- that the District Director of the INS has said this afternoon, and the Deputy here, I think -- but he said, the District Director himself, that he would release Mr. Zuno-Arce today, put him on a plane under appropriate supervision so it's clear he leaves subject to his agreement to come back, and do it tonight.

That the reason it was --

THE COURT: When did you do this; today?

MR. MEDVENE: Yes, sir, since we left here.

23

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

MR. BLANCARTE: It's Gustavson.

MR. MEDVENE: Yes. Mr. Gustavson.

THE COURT: Gustavson.

MR. MEDVENE: Yes, sir. We met with him, with the Consulate General of Mexico and Mr. Gustavson.

MR. BLANCARTE: Romeo Flores Caballero, Consulate General of Mexico, was with us.

MR. MEDVENE: Now, basically what he said in my presence was he would let him out tonight subject to making sure he left, subject to his agreement that he come back.

THE COURT: Come back for the exclusion hearing?
MR. MEDVENE: Yes, sir.

Now, we also told him that even though Mr. Arce denies any involvement of any kind in narcotics, he wants to withdraw his application just so can go home. All the hearing is going to do is it will either say you're not excludable and he goes home, or it will say you're excludable and he goes home, and it will save the time of the hearing. While he didn't do anything wrong, he just wants to go home.

At any rate, the District Director said he would let him out but he wanted to check with San Antonio. He also checked with the United States Attorney's Office. I was not privy to those conversations, but my understanding and feel from those conversations is the following.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

today. And all we're now asking, your Honor --

THE COURT: Well, do you know whether Zuno-Arce has agreed?

MR. MEDVENE: My understanding is Zuno-Arce has not agreed, and the only thing, lastly, your Honor, is this: We're making -- under the circumstances, all we're talking about is can he leave the country now before or after the hearing?

We're making an oral motion in the form of habeus corpus, just saying that -- we're just asking your Honor to set him free on his on recognizance subject to a reasonable bond, subject to him appearing in San Antonio if they want to go ahead with the hearing.

What we're telling you and representing under oath, your Honor, is that he'll withdraw his application and all they have to do is send him back, because all the hearing is about is does he get to stay or not and he wants to go home.

THE COURT: You're repeating yourself.

MR. MEDVENE: Yes, sir. I'm sorry.

MR. GURULE: I did speak with -- I had an opportunity to speak with the Assistant District Director and the INS Director in San Antonio by the name of Gary Renick.

Gary Renick told me that he spoke with the District Director, Richard M. Cassias in San Antonio and that Cassias told Renick that he had -- that Cassias, the District Director in San Antonio had been contacted by the press regarding the judge's order releasing the defendant, releasing the witness to be nere and asked Cassias what Cassias' position was.

Cassias told the press that he wanted Zuno-Arce back for be the excludability hearing. That is what Renick told me. Cassias' decision to have Zuno go back for the excludability hearing was a decision totally exclusively made independent of the U.S. Attorney's Office -- anyone from the

United States Attorney's Office here in the Los Angeles. That was a decision made on his part without any input from myself or any other representative from the U.S. Attorney's Office; that's what I have been told secondhand.

THE COURT: Is there a representative here from the

MR. GURULE: I believe Mr. Looney is.

MR. LOONEY: Bob Looney, the Deputy District Director, your Honor.

THE COURT: Come forward. Can you shed any light on what has transpired between your office and San Antonio?

MR. LOONEY: The two District Directors did confer. Zuno-Arce was served with a charge document at the time of arrest in San Antonio and those documents were subsequently served on the immigration court. There is a venue issue with the immigration court and the file remains in the possession of San Antonio. So we did contact San Antonio to determine whether they wanted Mr. Arce returned. The District Director in San Antonio made it very clear that he has. So we did contact San Antonio to determine whether they wanted Mr. Arce returned.

The District Director in San Antonio made it very clear that he has, in his mind, sufficient evidence to prove this charge of the drug charge. So, while INS locally may have made a decision the thing is outside our jurisdiction as far as

l releasing the subject.

him.

Our plan is right now is tomorrow morning to transport Zuno-Arce to San Antonio depending upon the decision here, of course, immediately with counsel. We have made arrangement with his counsel to notify him about the transportation arrangement so they could travel together to San Antonio and have an expedited exclusion hearing in San Antonio.

THE COURT: When you say expedited, you mean within

THE COURT: When you say expedited, you mean within a few days?

MR. LOONEY: Within a day.

THE COURT: Within a day.

MR. LOONEY: If Mr. Arce is willing. It's up to

THE COURT: Well, do you know did the Drug

Enforcement Administration have anything to do with contacting
the District Director in San Antonio regarding this matter?

MR. GURULE: No. What I know is that a call was made to DEA in San Antonio to advise them of the the Court's ruling. And at that time --

THE COURT: Who made that call?

MR. GURULE: Special Agent Doug Keehl of the Drug Enforcement Administration. He called to advise the DEA in San Antonio of the judge's ruling here. At that time Special Agent Doug Keehl was advised by a DEA OXEIT TSOT TSERE JOM TSNM outstanding INS hold that was yet remaining in San AITAINA AI

Marshals here and also advised the Marshals of it and told him to also notify the Marshals. I told him to tell the Marshals

1 to notify the clerk of their actions.

THE COURT: Then it is your understanding that the DEA office in San Antonio notified the Marshals here of the existence of the hold?

MR. KEEHL: That's the best of my knowledge. I believe this they did.

THE COURT: Well --

MR. MEDVENE: I might also note, which I didn't originally -- I don't know if this is true or not, your Honor, but it is certainly possible -- at lest in the old days -- the hold could initially be there, having been instituted by the DEA, and that's why the hold was there in the first place. I don't know if that's true in this case or not.

It may well be, but the other curious thing, your Honor, is that the man according to declarations in front of you has been in and out of the country lawfully for five or six or seven times as recently as '87.

So what we're saying is that -- and the possibility that the hold was placed by DEA and the call to DEA and their knowledge of it -- and I might also say -- Mr. Blancarte here can attest to this -- he went down to see Mr. Zuno-Arce while we were waiting for the Court order. And he told me he was advised within ten minutes of when we left your Honor's courtroom by one of the Marshals that there was hold on him.

Now, query: How would the Marshal's Office have

known unless somehow word got to them pretty quickly? But putting all that to the side, all we're asking for is bail pending the hearing. That's all we're asking for, to be released tonight subject to coming to the hearing and just focusing on — all the hearing is going to say is he can stay or not stay, but he wants to go home.

THE COURT: First of all, there is the question of jurisdiction. This matter was before this Court on the return of the Court's arrest of this witness as a material witness.

Those proceedings have been going on here for several weeks and were concluded today, and I ruled that he is no longer a material witness and needs not be detained.

Now, apparently, there was a preexisting immigration hold on the witness. In fact, as I understand, if I understand correctly what was said here, he was arrested initially by the INS. He was in INS custody and awaiting an exclusion group hearing at the time the material witness warrant issued from this court.

Now, in the immigration matters, there is a whole statutory procedure established for the handling of immigration matters. There is a system, a traditional system of immigration law judges to hear and determine these things. I cannot see, frankly -- I cannot say that I know of any authority or law that authorizes me to deal with this immigration matter, which is now what it is.

I ordered that this witness be released on bail.

Normally, in exclusion hearings, is bail available to

witnesses? They are not. You're shaking your head.

MR. LOONEY: I'm shaking my head no, your Honor.

THE COURT: The idea is that -- that was my understanding -- that bail is not generally available for people who are detained for exclusionary purposes.

Now, since it has been arranged to expedite this matter, it appears that Mr. Zuno-Arce will have to suffer the further inconvenience of this immigration hold until it has been resolved by this exclusionary hearing which we've heard here is going to be accelerated.

Therefore, your request for this Court to fix bail is denied. The Court is without jurisdiction to do so. This witness was released from the hold of this court but not from the hold of every other court, and that is true every time you release a person who's under a court hold. You always release them subject to the existence of any other hold.

I was not aware of it at the time and did not become aware until you walked in here and told me about it. So there is -- I cannot provide any release to Mr. Zuno-Arce. The matter will have to run its course through immigration court.

MR. MEDVENE: Could your Honor also -- we have in front of you so far the oral writ of habeus corpus.

THE COURT: What?

MR. MEDVENE: We have asked to put in front of you now a writ of habeus corpus asking that he be released.

submitted papers -- orally submitted habeus corpus before the Court. If you want to file a written habeus corpus, you have to file appropriate petitions. File it with the Court and then it will be assigned to some judge at random to determine. You don't just walk in and say this is a motion for writ of habeus corpus and expect immediate action. That's simply not done procedurally or legally or otherwise. The government has an opportunity to respond to it so it can be heard at all.

So that does not provide any basis for relief.

MR. MEDRANO: Good afternoon, your Honor. A final matter I wanted to bring to the Court's attention. Prior to the Court's taking the bench, I had an opportunity to speak to Mr. Medvene concerning a couple matters. One is that his client obviously is still under subpoena for an October 3rd trial date. And Mr. Medvene and I have informally agreed as follows: That when the government is ready to bring Mr. Zuno-Arce back with his testimony at trial, that I can arrange that by telephonically contacting Mr. Medvene, who will then work with me to arrange for Mr. Zuno-Arce to return to the Central District for his testimony at trial.

But I just wanted to get that out, your Honor, because I think and if Mr. Medvene wants to clarify this

somehow, I think that's our understanding at this juncture.

MR. MEDVENE: That is our understanding, but I take it with that, that the government will forthwith return him to Mexico and not -- it will only be subject to them not placing any other holds.

THE COURT: There is nothing, as far as I know, as far as his being brought to this court as a material witness -there is nothing to prevent him from going back to Mexico or going anywhere else.

MR. MEDVENE: If the government agrees he will be forthwith transported back, we certainly will agree to what Mr. Medrano said, which is what I agreed to before. I just don't want to let it -- I just don't want another situation like this, your Honor.

> THE CLERK: Please rise.

I'm sorry, your Honor. Does Mr. Medrano on the record agree? I assume he agrees, but I just think it's really important. Does he agree, because I didn't hear anything.

> MR. MEDRANO: No problem with that, your Honor. (Which were all the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.)

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct

10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE BI MAID
2	I, Marta Coto , declare:
3	That I am a citizen of the United States and resident or
4	employed in Los Angeles County, California; that my business
5	address is Office of United States Attorney, United States
6	Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California
9	90012; that I am over the age of eighteen years, and am not a
8	party to the above-entitled action;
9	That I am employed by the United States Attorney for the
10	Central District of California who is a member of the Bar of the
11	United States District Court for the Central District of
12	California, at whose direction the service by mail described in
13	this Certificate was made; that on September 13, 1989
14	deposited in the United States mails in the United States
15	Courthouse at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California,
16	in the above-entitled action, in an envelope bearing the
17	requisite postage, a copy of: RETURN TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS: MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES; DECLARATIONS OF MANUEL A. MEDRANO AND RICHARD M. CASILLAS
18	· ·
19	
20	addressed to: Ed Medvene, Esq. 11377 Olympic Boulevard
21	Los Angeles, CA 90064
22	at his last known addless, at which place there is a
23	delivery service by United States mail.
24	This Certificate is executed on September 13, 1989
25	Los Angeles, California.
26	I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true
27	and correct.
28	Marta Tab